

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: 10/031,003  
Filed: October 19, 2001  
Page 2

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend claims 1, 9, 10, 14, and 15 to read as shown below:

1. (Currently amended) A polymer composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein, during combustion of the composition, a coherent char is formed, and wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers~~—of—polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, and epoxy resins.~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second filler is a known flame retardant filler, an inert filler or a combination thereof.

4. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminium trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

5. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second filler is selected from the group

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: 10/031,003  
Filed: October 19, 2001  
Page 3

consisting of at least one of chalk, talc and glass powder.

6. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of the nano-clay to the second filler is from 90%:10% to 10%:90% by weight.

7. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total filler content is from 20% to 80% by weight.

8. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer is PVC.

9. (Currently amended) A polymer composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite, and wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers of ~~polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, and epoxy resins.~~

10. (Currently amended) A polymer composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler selected from the group consisting of at least one of chalk, talc and glass powder, and wherein the polymer is selected from the group

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: 10/031,003  
Filed: October 19, 2001  
Page 4

consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers—~~of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, and epoxy resins.~~

11. (Previously presented) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 1.

13. (Previously presented) A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of combusting the polymer composition according to claim 1.

14. (Currently amended) A char promoting composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, and wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers—~~of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, and epoxy resins.~~

15. (Currently amended) A method of improving the char promoting properties of a polymer composition, which method comprises the steps of combining a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, and wherein the polymer is selected from

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.  
Serial No.: 10/031,003  
Filed: October 19, 2001  
Page 5

the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers ~~of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, and epoxy resins.~~

16. (Previously presented) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 9.

17. (Previously presented) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 9.

18. (Previously presented) A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 9.

19. (Previously presented) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 10.

20. (Previously presented) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 10.

21. (Previously presented) A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 10.